

AUTO COLLISION REPAIR LICENSING ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:40 AM

Members present:

David Reynolds, New Century Auto Inc
Jeanne McCarthy, DBR
Dennis Gamba, Cranston Collision Center
Charles M. Nystedt, Metropolitan Property & Casualty Ins. Co.
Lt. David Palmer, State Police
Richard Berstein, DBR

Others Present:

Randy Bottella, Reliable Collision Center
Larry Alan, Nationwide
Rep. Bruce Long
Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos, Providence Auto Body
Patrick Quinlan, ABARI
Jeff Turner, Progressive
Mark McGrady, Progressive
Jeff Greer, DBR

DR: Motion made to pass August minutes Seconded CN approved.

The Board and others present the discuss the Director's request for more information concerning Storage Regulations

RB: Director's email to DR questioned how proposed rates were determined.

DR: Noted this was done by a Subcommittee that met from November 2005 to present

JPK: The rate is below CPI index from the 1994 rates. If CPI was used from that date the increase would be 30% the proposed increase is much less. The subcommittee compromised to compensate for the different levels of payment under the old system

RB: Requested DR to draft explanation and bring to next meeting

DR: The regulation has to reflect Rhode Island is within the top 5 of highest tax rates in the country

LA: Requested a copy of the email sent by the Director to DR

Certification of Technicians

RB: We do not have the staff or resources to implement a new program. Suggested that the industry police itself and develop standards i.e. ICAR

RBL: Reported that restaurants have a national 15-hour certification program, upon completion they send proof along with fee to Health Dept. The restaurant stakeholders have a good idea what needs to be done.

RB: Perhaps one of the associations could conduct testing

DR: We might be able to work on this, however we would need random enforcement

RB: When Jeanne visits shops she could ask for copies of certification of technicians

RBL: Similar to life insurance agents. When they renew their license they swear under oath that they have taken certain courses. Randomly the department requests that they send in proof

DR: Only auto body employees who work on structural repairs would be required to be certified.

DG: Suggested the Board should allow for time in business, a person has worked 15 years in the business should automatically be certified. They may be reluctant to spend time in classroom

DR: Stated they could offer computer-based training

RB: Certification is not licensing

JG: Questioned if not licensing are there sanctions if someone does not adhere to these requirements?

RB: License holders must adhere to certification practices

JPK: 5-38 requires all license holders to adhere to statute and regulations

JG: Stated this seems a distinction without a difference certification versus licensing

DG: Stated there is already a shortage of technicians – this may be good intentions but cannot see it working without grandfathering

JPK: Some shops may be utilizing unqualified technicians

DR: The Board's responsibility by this legislation is to come up with regulation to insure that auto body shops have competent technicians to put the consumers vehicles together safely

PQ: Make a recommendation and send it up

DR: Set up subcommittee: DG, CN, Rbot, GG

Old or New Business

JMC: Motorcycle repair shop requested amended salvage rebuilder regulations to conform the actual requirements needed in the repair of salvage motorcycle.

Rbot: Agreed there is a difference and suggested second set of salvage rebuilder regulations

DR: They do not need much of the equipment

Rbot: Will report on criteria necessary to rebuild motorcycles at next Board meeting

RB: Wanted to advise board of two issues before Department:

- 1) Department will have 2nd meeting with Dealers Association concerning the change in regulation put through by Board

DG: Requested they the Dealers association be invited to the Board

DR: Not a Board matter this is an issue for the Director

RB: Jeanne sent out survey only a few were affected

- 2) Large insurer beginning to challenge many auto body practices and have obtained a Boston Law firm to proceed. The Department will be having a series of hearings

JPK: Is it Allstate?

RB: Cannot confirm or deny but this matter is germane to this board

CN: When will the hearings be held?

RB: The cases are in the process of being scheduled, the Department is getting an Independent Hearing Officer in place

PQ: Can you supply hearing notices to the Board?

RB: I will have Jeanne do that

Adjourn: 12:05pm